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Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00768 181120Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 AID-01
/024 W
----------041117 181134Z /10
O 161056Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1818

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (SOLARZ, STEPHEN J.)
SUBJ: CODEL SOLARZ

REF: (A) STATE 67151, (?) GABORONE 0736

1. UNFORTUNATELY, REVISION OF CODEL SOLARZ SCHEDULE (REF A) MAY ACTUALLY MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS FOR HIM. MARCH 27 IS EASTER MONDAY WHICH WINDS UP FOUR-DAY BOTSWANA NATIONAL HOLIDAY. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE RULING BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY (BDP) WILL BE HELD IN MAHALAPYE (APPROXIMATELY 200 KILOMATERS FROM GABORONE) ON THAT WEEKEND. CONFERENCE WILL BE ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND ALL IMPORTANT GOB OFFICIAL SO THAT IT WILL BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN APPOINTMENTS FOR MARCH 27 IN GABORONE.

2. AFTER RECEIPT OF REF A, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER LEGWAILA INFORMED US THAT PRESIDENT HAD ALREADY INDICATED THAT HE COULD NOT MEET WITH CODEL ON SATURDAY, APRIL 1, AS ORIGINALLY REQUESTED. LEGWAILA TOLD US THAT MARCH 27 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT WOULD BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE. HE SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSY FOLLOW UP WITH EXTAFF MINISTRY SECRETARY MPOTOKWANE WHO HAD BEEN ASKED TO ARRANGE ALTERNATIVE APPOINTMENTS FOR CONGRESSMAN ON APRIL 1.
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3. WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH MPOTOKWANE TO SEE WHETHER APPOINT-MENTS CAN BE MADE; HOWEVER, WE ARE DOUBTFUL THAT MARCH 27 VISIT TO GABORONE WOULD PROVIDE CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ WITH ACCESS TO RANKING GOB OFFICIALS.

4. IN VIEW OF ABOVE PROBLEM, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER

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SUGGESTING THAT GABORONE VISIT BE POSTPONED FOR ONE DAY TO
FACILITATE ARRANGEMENT OF APPROPRIATE PROGRAM OF APPOINT-
MENTS FOR CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER RESCHEDULING
IS POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GABORO00768
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780120-0883
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 67151, 78 GABORONE 736
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3313189
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL SOLARZ
TAGS: OREP, (SOLARZ, STEPHEN J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/84254bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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